Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):*

(*a*) 79, including short leave vacancies.

(*b*) Action is being taken to fill up the vacancies as early as possible ; leave is generally granted only on relief by substitutes as far as possible. There is also paucity of graduates for appointments.

MINIMUM WAGES BILL—DETAILS REGARDING

137. മിസ്റ്റർ എം. ഒ. തോമക്കുട്ടി: താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യത്തിന്ന് ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു് സദയം മറുപടി പറയുമോ.—

സിലക്ടു് കമ്മിറ്റിക്കയച്ചിരുന്ന മിനിമം വേജസു് ബിൽ തൊഴിലാളികൾക്കും മുതലാളികൾക്കും ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്ന തന്നെയും ഹാനികരമാണെന്നും കൊച്ചിയിൽ വ്യാപാരവ്യവസായ വികസനത്തിന്നു് ഈ ബിൽ ആപൽക്കരമാണെന്നും കാണിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പത്രപ്രസ്താവനകൾ ഗവണ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ഗോവിന്ദമേനോൻ: ഉവ്വു്.

2. ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan

Dereliction of duty committed by Mr. P. Govinda Menon

(Minister for Food and Education)

Mr. President: Notice of an Adjournment Motion has been received from Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan for discussing an urgent matter of public importance, to wit, namely the dereliction of duty committed by M.R.Ry. P. Govinda Menon Avl., M.A. & B.L., in his leaving his post of duty at the Indian Constituent Assembly to which this House had unanimonsly elected him to represent the State when the Union Constitution was under active consideration by the Assembly. That is the notice of the Adjournment Motion. I think this notice must have been given much earlier and not on the 6th day of the meeting. If the Hon'ble Member wishes to explain, he may do so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President I shall immediately explain. I deliberately waited for this day. The information that the Constituent Assembly adjourned was contained in the papers that were received here last evening showing that it was adjourned on the 31st, that is the day before yesterday. The Hon'ble Minister had been pleased to say that there was nothing which had to be lost by his being not there. But yesterday, the paper that I read contained the information that the Assembly adjourned on the day before yesterday. There was more important news than that in it. I find that in the Union Constitution a very important matter namely the prerogative of the units that form the Union, Cochin being one of them, the prerogative of the Maharaja to pardon was under discussion, the result of which is absolutely immaterial for the present purpose. In the Union Constitution in which one State like ours with its advanced views which had expressed its willingness and readiness to join the union much earlier than anybody else when this power of our Maharaja to grant, the prerogative of our Maharaja to grant pardon, necessarily relating to the subjects of the State, is under discussion, if the Member, our representative is not there, that is a serious matter. Therefore till, the adjournment our representative ought to be there because we do not know when important things may arise, what important things may arise, what shape it may take after discussion, in what way our trusted representative, able representative will be able to turn the tide of events as he has been able to do on occassions, in other contexts, therefore it is an occasion, Sir, on which he had to be there till the very last moment. I find, Sir, that propably he must have left Delhi on the 24th ultimo. Various things have taken place between then and the adjournment of the Assembly the day before. The most arresting thing is the one thing I referred to earlier, namely the discussion on the prerogative of the rulers of States to grant pardon to their subjects, a precious and non surreuderable right of a federating State. I was thinking, Sir, that our representative may fly back any day to Delhi. That also has not been done. Now that the Assembly is adjourned there is no purpose in his going back. The matter of the adjournment of the Assembly was known only yesterday evening. Hence the matter of the adjournment motion is of recent occurrence.

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Mr. President: Whatever be the method for possession of information, from the explanation given by the Hon'ble Member, it is seen that he has come to the conclusion that this is an important occasion. Apart from the details, according to him this is an important occasion on which Mr. P. Govinda Menon should have been present at the Constituent Assembly and as regards the information that the Constituent Assembly would be adjourned by the end of July, that information was published some days back, both through the papers, and through other channels of information. However that be that is not the point here. The Hon'ble Member is under the conviction that Mr. P. Govinda Menon should have been present at the Constituent Assembly at this important juncture when not only the prerogative of His Highness, but other important matters are being discussed there. I think the Hon'ble Member had this information even before this meeting began.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I had not, Sir.

Mr. President: The views expressed by the Hon'ble Member on this question, which elicited certain statement from the Hon'ble Member of the Constituent Assembly some time ago make me think that the Hon'ble Member who has given this Adjourement motion was even at that time under the impression that it was the duty of the Member of the Constituent Assembly to have been present there. In spite of his allusion to the prerogative of His Highness, I think that the Hon'ble Member should have given this notice much earlier. This motion is out of order.

3. DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS *(cont.)*

38. 16-General Administration—(viii) Election Establishment

CUT MOTION

by Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan

To reduce the allotment by Re. 1 "to urge on the Government that the work of the Department may be accelerated".

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*): I have to confess, Sir, that I have to traverse a beaten track in continuing the discussion on this cut. On that day, the first day when this cut motion was under discussion, even my right of reply was questioned by the Ministerial Benches but by your indulgence and interpretation of the rules correctly I got an opportunity of replying and I was on my legs, that evening I was saying that the reply given by the Treasury Benches to this representation was almost of the same sort, but a different interpretation came from the Ministerial Party member, Mr. Chowdhury Dhara Singh and I had followed with slightly little variation from that. My position is this, that what is done by the Government inclusive of the Minister or rather mainly by the Minister though not in their capacity as Ministers, to accelerate the possibility of the election being conducted even at the normal time, namely, April next year, is seen to be rather remote. I have a serious charge against them that although the charge of deliberately being privy to prolonging the election as was the point of the cut motion that was discussed here under General Administration and withdrawn, although not amounting to that, they are privy to the delays because the work of the officers, appointed clearly shows that this is true. In the month of Kumbham, Sir, the necessary officers in the higher rank eating up a large share of the tax-payers' money have been appointed and they have been functioning there since only to draw their pay. But mighty little, not mighty little, but absolutely nothing has been done, practically done to have the elections at the normal time. Although the Minister cannot be charged in the face of the categorical sta ement that has been made by one of the Ministers in another context. They are not deliberately making attempts to prolong the date of the election, that I concede, Sir. Still the charge is there that they can be justifiably said to be privy to the putting off of the election because nothing has been done and these Ministers have not raised their little finger in the matter. They say that the Government is a composite Unit whether it is trans erred departments or non-transferred departments. That was the statement given to save themselves from a queer position I raised. If the wooden side of the Government o. the day as distinet from the representative side, I do

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